10-477-99   See HB 3

1   A bill to be entitled

2   An act relating to child identification;

3   providing a short title; providing legislative

4   intent; requiring hospitals and birthing

5   centers to notify parents of the availability

6   of the Child Identification Program; requiring

7   hospitals and birthing centers to provide

8   identification services to the parent upon

9   payment of a fee; encouraging physicians to

10   participate in the Child Identification

11   Program; prohibiting the creation or

12   maintenance of certain records; providing an

13   effective date.

14

15   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16

17   Section 1.   Child identification program.--

18   (1) SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Child

19   Identification Program" Act.

20   (2) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.--The Legislature

21   finds that the new technology of DNA testing is of great

22   potential benefit to the residents of this state. Having a

23   child's DNA sample available will enable parents to better

24   assist law enforcement in finding and identifying a child in

25   the unfortunate event of a child's disappearance or abduction,

26   as well as identifying children who may be victims in an

27   accident or natural disaster. Obtaining a DNA sample simply

28   requires the placement of a drop of blood on specially treated

29   paper for long term storage by the parent. It is the intent of

30   the Legislature that all health care providers, including

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1 hospitals, birthing centers, and physicians, assist parents in

2 obtaining the sample for safekeeping by the parent.

3   (3) REQUIREMENT FOR HOSPITALS AND BIRTHING CENTERS TO

4 ASSIST PARENTS IN THE CHILD IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM.--Every

5 licensed hospital and every licensed birthing center shall,

6 upon admission for a labor and delivery, notify the parent as

7 part of the admission process that the hospital or birthing

8 center is a participant in the Child Identification Program

9 and will provide a DNA sample for identification purposes to

10 the parent upon request and upon payment of a fee to be

11 determined by the hospital or birthing center. The fee may

12 not exceed the reasonable cost of obtaining the sample and

13 necessary materials. If the parent elects to participate and

14 pays the fee, the hospital or birthing center shall obtain the

15 DNA sample and provide the sample to the parent for

16 safekeeping. Nothing in this section shall be considered as a

17 health service under the Medicaid program, and the fee paid is

18 not subject to the copayment limitations set forth in section

19 409.9081, Florida Statutes. No copy or record of any DNA

20 samples provided to a parent shall be created or maintained by

21 any entity participating in the Child Identification Program.

22   (4) PARTICIPATION BY PHYSICIANS.--The Legislature

23 encourages all physicians who provide primary care to children

24 born prior to the implementation of the Child Identification

25 Program to voluntarily participate and offer the Child

26 Identification Program to their patients. The Board of

27 Medicine is encouraged to assist licensed physicians in

28 learning about and participating in the Child Identification

29 Program.

30   Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a

31 law.

                                2

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

1   **

2   LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

3
       Creates the Child Identification Program to encourage all
4   health care providers, including hospitals, birthing
       centers, and physicians, to assist parents in obtaining a
5   DNA sample for safekeeping by the parent for
       identification purposes. (See bill for details.)
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